(b) No funds have been specifically earmarked for the programme, which will be covered as part of the normal programmes.

(c) Government of Orissa have sent a proposal wherein they have indicated that foodgrains should be in the form of rice. The proposal is under consideration.

Circulation of Fake Currency

*359. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased testate:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item titled, "Singapore to U.P. townships: Money racket busted", appearing in the Indian Express dated the 7th November, 1999; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to curb fake currency notes distributed mainly in small towns of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Police' being a State subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitutor, of India, prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, in order to combat counterfeiting, currency notes are now printed with additional security features. The Reserve Bank of India issues press releases, from time to time, to enable the public to distinguish between genuine and fake currency notes. The Border Security has alerted its forward troops to be more vigilant so as to ensure that such currency notes are not smuggled into the country. The Central Bureau of Investigation has creasted a Special Unit for exclusive investigation of counterfeit currency notes.

Jute Growers in the country

*360. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of jute growers in the country; and

(b) the steps taken by Government on the plight of jute growers because of reluctance of JCI to procure jute from farmers, and non-operation of NJMC mills?

THE MINISTER OFTEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Around 4 million agricultural families are involved in jute cultivation.

(b) As the prices of raw jute in upcountry and local markets generally have been ruling well above minimum support price in the current season JCI was not required to carry out any major price support operation. However, in some isolated pockets where prices touched MSP level, JCI carried out price support operation which restored price above MSP level.

NJMC consumes only about 5% of total raw jute consumption of jute industry. The prevailing prices are above MSP and hence the jute growers have not been affected adversely due to any absence of buying support from NJMC.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Solthers from Punjab killed in Kargil

2144. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons from Punjab killed/injured, rank-wise, in the Kargil War recently;

(b) the number of their families/next of the kin to whom compensation has been paid so far;

(c) what is the criteria to sanction compensation, rank-wise, to the families; and

(d) the number of families given jobs so far in lieu of killed personnel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The number of Army personnel from Punjab killed in the Kargil conflict in as under:—

(i)	Officer	1
(ii)	Junior Commissioned Officers	3
(iii)	Other Ranks	32

Details of injured personnel are not being maintained State-wise by Army Headquarters.

(b) The families/next of kin of all the Kargil martyrs have been paid ex-gratia amount and other compensation as per their entitlement.

(c) A statement is attached. *(See* below)

(d) As per available information, the State Government of Punjab is providing job to one dependent of each martyr of the Kargil conflict.

Statement

A comprehensive welfare package has been provided to the next of kin and families of the Armed Forces Personnel killed in the Kargil conflict This includes ex-gratia lumpsum compensation of Rs. 10 lakhs; liberalised special family pension on the basis of last pay drawn by the deceased solther; and death gratuity and family gratuity as per specified rates, as applicable. Apart from the above, the following assistance has been provided from the National Defence Fund (NDF); Rs. 5 lakhs for dwelling unit; Rs. 1 lakh per child for education upto two children per family; Rs. 1.20 lakhs for